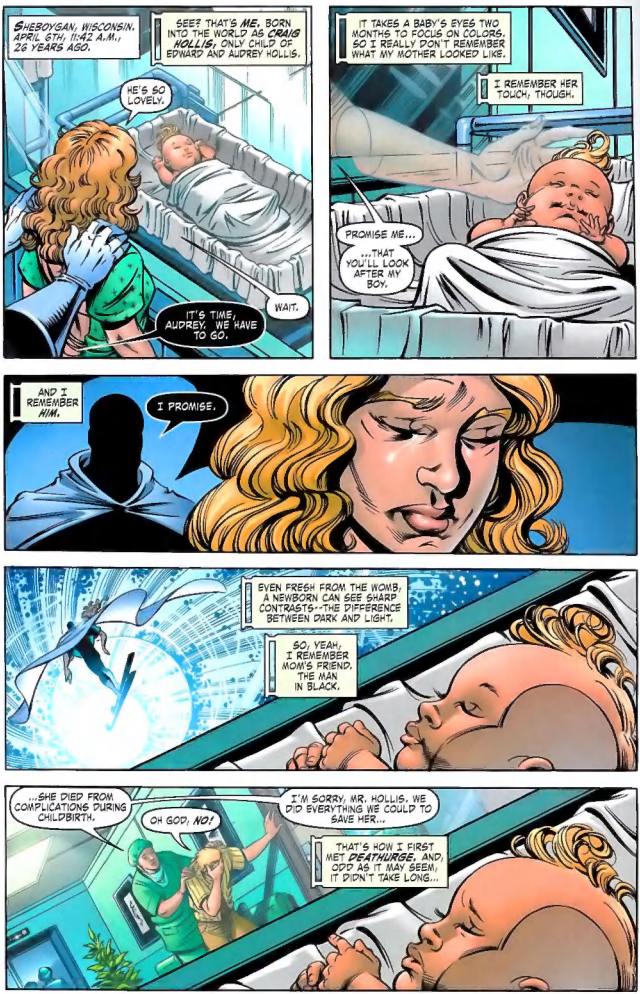
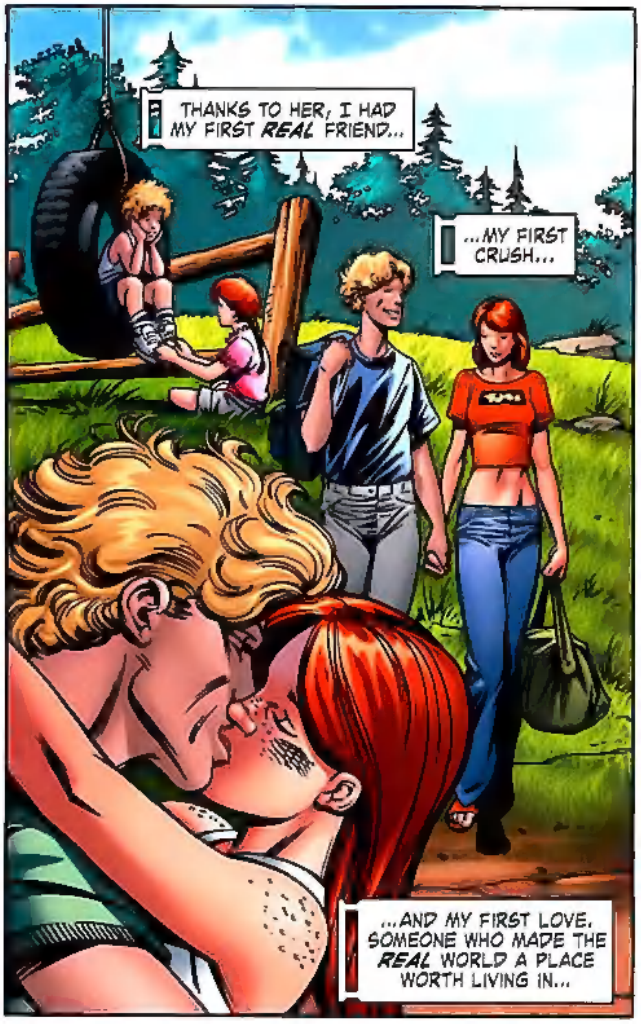
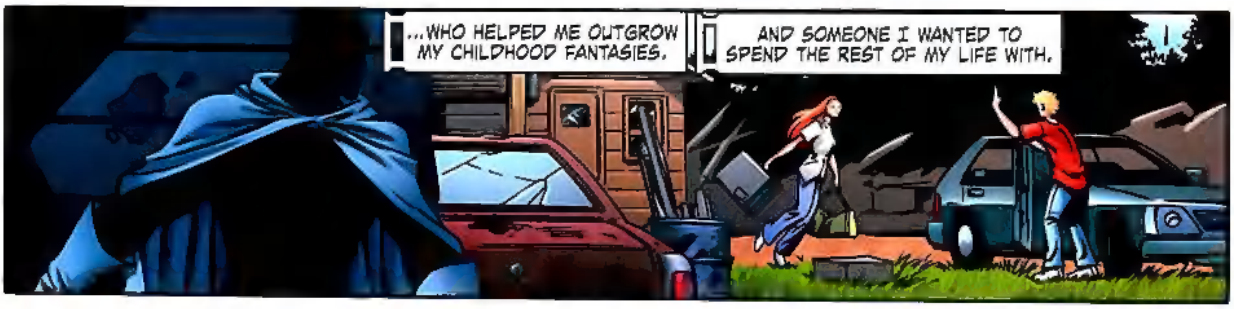
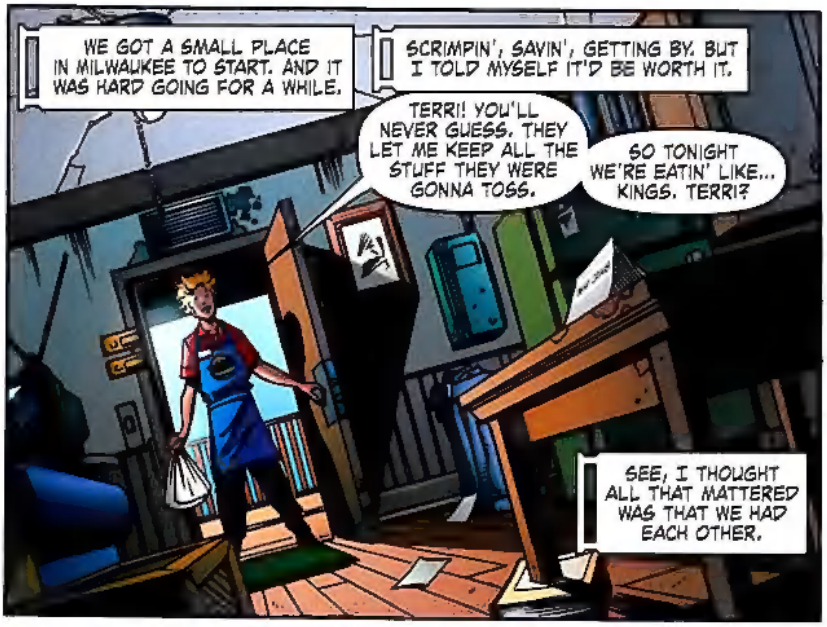
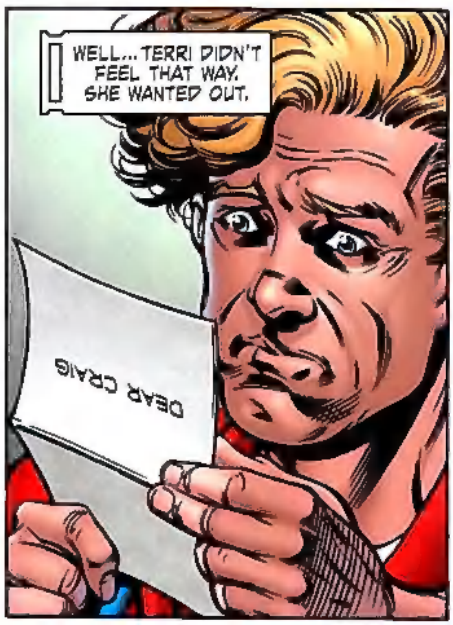

SHEBOYGAN, WISCONSIN. APRIL 6TH, 11:42 A.M., 26 YEARS AGO.
SEE? THAT'S ME. BORN INTO THE WORLD AS CRAIG HOLLIS, ONLY CHILD OF EDWARD AND AUDREY HOLLIS.
HE'S SO LOVELY.
WAIT.
IT'S TIME, AUDREY. WE HAVE TO GO.
IT TAKES A BABY'S EYES TWO MONTHS TO FOCUS ON COLORS. SO I REALLY DON'T REMEMBER WHAT MY MOTHER LOOKED LIKE.
I REMEMBER HER TOUCH, THOUGH.
PROMISE ME...
...THAT YOU'LL LOOK AFTER MY BOY.
AND I REMEMBER HIM.
I PROMISE.
EVEN FRESH FROM THE WOMB, A NEWBORN CAN SEE SHARP CONTRASTS--THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DARK AND LIGHT.
SO, YEAH, I REMEMBER MOM'S FRIEND, THE MAN IN BLACK.
...SHE DIED FROM COMPLICATIONS DURING CHILDBIRTH.
OH GOD, NO!
I'M SORRY, MR. HOLLIS. WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD TO SAVE HER...
THAT'S HOW I FIRST MET DEATHWURGE. AND, ODD AS IT MAY SEEM, IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG...

...A NEW DADDY, MR. O'DOUGHAN. AND FOR SOME REASON, THIS WAS THE ONE I GOT TO KEEP.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, LIVING WITH THE O'DOUGHANS WASN'T ALL BAD. BECAUSE THEY HAD A DAUGHTER. A GIRL NAMED TERRI.


THANKS TO HER, I HAD MY FIRST REAL FRIEND...
...MY FIRST CRUSH...
...AND MY FIRST LOVE. SOMEONE WHO MADE THE REAL WORLD A PLACE WORTH LIVING IN...


...WHO HELPED ME OUTGROW MY CHILDHOOD FANTASIES.
AND SOMEONE I WANTED TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH.


WE GOT A SMALL PLACE IN MILWAUKEE TO START. AND IT WAS HARD GOING FOR A WHILE.
SCRIMPIN', SAVIN', GETTING BY. BUT I TOLD MYSELF IT'D BE WORTH IT.
TERRI! YOU'LL NEVER GUESS. THEY LET ME KEEP ALL THE STUFF THEY WERE GONNA TOSS.
SO TONIGHT WE'RE EATIN' LIKE... KINGS. TERRI?
SEE, I THOUGHT ALL THAT MATTERED WAS THAT WE HAD EACH OTHER.


WELL... TERRI DIDN'T FEEL THAT WAY. SHE WANTED OUT.
DEAR CRAIG

IT'S A NEW VERSION OF THE ANI-MEN. THEY'RE ON SOME KIND OF ANIMAL RIGHTS TEAR!
BLAMING US FOR EVERYTHING FROM COSMETICS TESTING TO WEARING FUR.
YEAH, I'LL KEEP 'EM BUSY...
...BUT NOT AS SUPER-MODEL ASHLEY CRAWFORD.
THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR...
...BIG BERTHA!
SPLONCH
PHOM
MONKEY JOE SAYS:
A li'l product placement never hurt.
FINALLY! SOME ACTION! QUICK, Y'ALL...
...TO THE G.L.A. QUIN-JETTA!
GLA
GLA

...SHOULD'VE TAKEN THE I-94 SOUTH.
WE MADE IT, DIDN'T WE?
LOOK! I BET THOSE ARE SOMEBODY'S EYE-BEAMS! THIS IS GONNA BE GREAT!
C'MON, CRAIG!
YOU KNOW YOU'RE DYING TO SAY IT...
OKAY...
AVENGERS...
...ASSEMBLE?
BERTHA? WHAT'RE THEY DOING HERE?
HEY, GUYS. THE REAL AVENGERS SHOWED UP.
SAID WE SHOULD SIT THIS ONE OUT SO NONE OF US GET HURT OR ANYTHING.

SHE'S NOT GOING WITH YOU!
MR. I?
IT'S HER TIME.
NO...DINAH, YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME, PLEASE, DON'T LET HIM TAKE YOU...
"...LIKE HE TOOK TERRI..."
Dear Craig,
i can't do this anymore. i always thought everything would be better if i got out of that house. but i can't run away from my memories. they're always with me wherever i go, always there when i close my eyes. please forgive me, Craig, and please understand it's not that i don't love you. i just want out.
Goodbye, Terri
TERRI!
I'M SORRY, SHE CALLED TO ME. AND I ANSWERED.
D'URGE?! YOU'RE REAL?!
YES, CRAIG. AND I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH.
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
NO! WAIT! TAKE ME WITH YOU!

WHY WON'T YOU EVER TAKE ME WITH YOU?!
WHY?!!
HE'S TALKING TO NOBODY. WHAT DO WE DO?
SHH! HE KNEW DINAH BETTER THAN ANY OF US.
SO WE LET HIM DO WHATEVER HE HAS TO. BECAUSE WE'RE HIS FRIENDS.
AND THAT'S WHAT SHE WOULD'VE WANTED.
HOLD ON, DEAR.
THAT WAS A COUPLE WEEKS AGO. AND MY LIFE'S BEEN PRETTY MUCH A BLUR SINCE THEN...
...WHICH KINDA BRINGS US BACK FULL CIRCLE...
...AND THE LAST THING TO GO THROUGH MY BRAIN...
JULY 13TH, 5:28 P.M. THE END OF EVERYTHING.
...WELL, BESIDES A BULLET.
IT'S THAT WISHFUL LITTLE THOUGHT I ALWAYS GET AT MOMENTS LIKE THIS...
HOLD ON!!
MAN, I REALLY HOPE THIS TAKES.
MONKEY JOE SAYS:
Next time, another Great Lakes Avenger dies! Oh my!

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